

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 12-14 are amended, and claims 1-7, 15-19 and 21 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. The amendments to claims 12-14 are for dependency. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 8-11 are allowed.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration, as the amendments cancel rejected claims and amend other claims to depend from allowed claims; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. As discussed above, claims 15 and 16 are canceled, and thus, the rejection of claims 15 and 16 is moot.

The Office Action objects to claims 7 and 12-14. As discussed above, claim 7 is canceled, and thus, the objection of claim 7 is moot. Claims 12 and 14 have been amended to correct informalities and for dependency. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

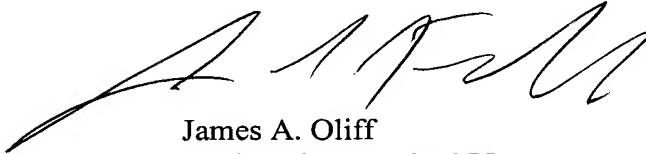
The Office Action 1) rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,162,927 to Moss et al. (hereinafter "Moss") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,322,932 to Colvin et al. (hereinafter "Colvin"); 2) rejects claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Moss in view of Colvin, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,483,611 to Mitzutani et al. (hereinafter "Mitzutani"); 3) rejects claims 7, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S.

Patent No. 4,958,892 to Jannson et al. (hereinafter "Jannson") in view of Moss; and (4) rejects claims 15-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Colvin in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,815,800 to Chern et al. (hereinafter "Chern"). As discussed above, claims 1-7, 15-19 and 21 are canceled, and thus the rejections of these claims are moot. Claims 12 and 13 are to depend from allowed claim 8, and thus, the rejection of these claims is moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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